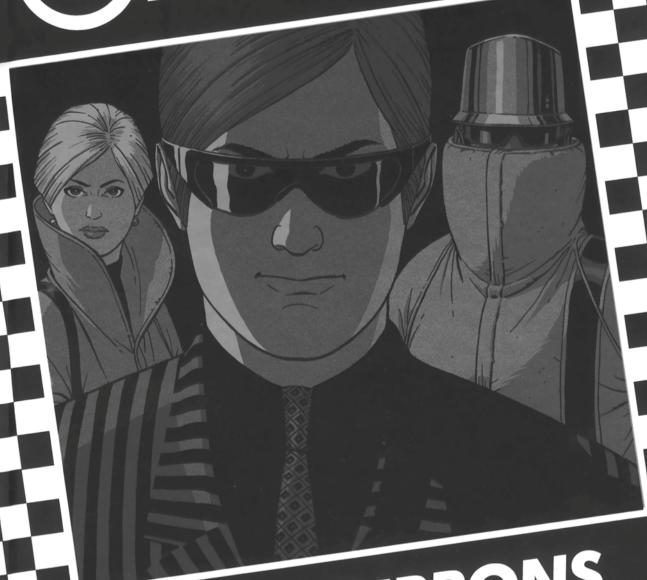
of GINCIS



DAVE GIBBONS



DAVE GIBBONS

THANKS TO:

Mick Barker

Shelly Bond

Dan Gibbons

Helen Gibbons John Harrison

John Higgins

Angus McKie

Susan Marsden

Malcolm Parsons

Keith Woodley

FOR THEIR INSPIRATION, HELP

AND FRIENDSHIP.

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF John Manning

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THE ORIGINALS

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COVER BY DAVE GIBBONS

THE Originals

Me and Bok couldn't wait to finish school. To say goodbye to the old buildings, the old teachers, the old lessons.

Us youngsters ought to be grateful to live in this world, they told us.

Grateful our fathers had fought a war.

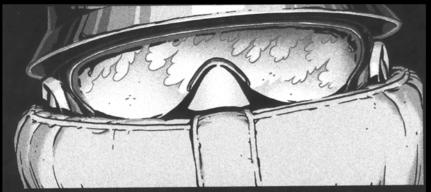
Grateful they'd won.

Grateful that all the guns had been put away.

Well, fucking thanks, Dad.

But we want to live in our own world, not yours.

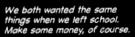




Me and Bok were always friends. The stupid kids used to pick on him because he was black and I used to pile in to help him. We got really good at fighting.



We liked the same music. Wore the same clothes. Chased the same girls.



But what me and Bok really wanted was to be Originals.



We talked about it all the time. We couldn't afford Hovers then, but we both had Mantles and cheap Dazzlerags. The local Dirt hated us and we hated them right back.



When our big night finally came, me and Bok were doing some marking, pilled up, keeping an eye out for the Dirt.

And the Law.





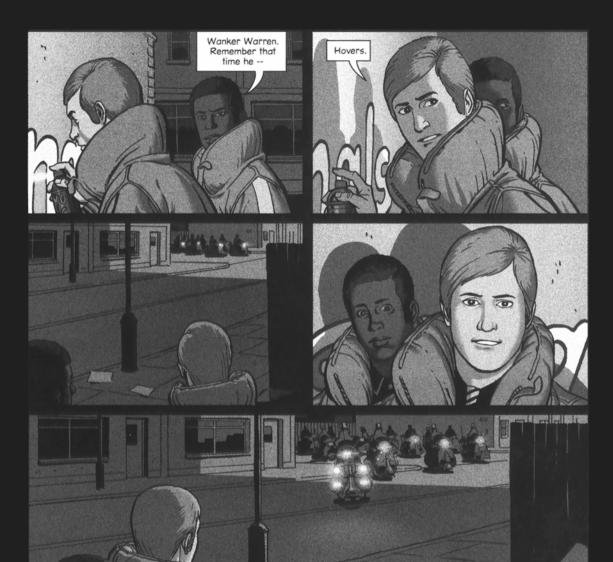
Me and Bok.





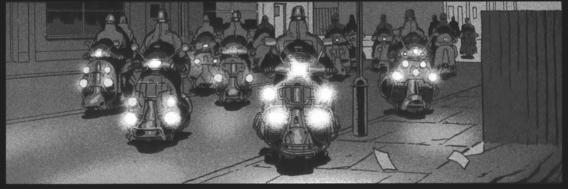






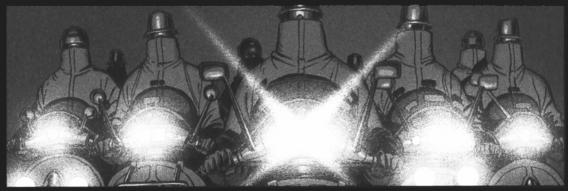


Coming our way.



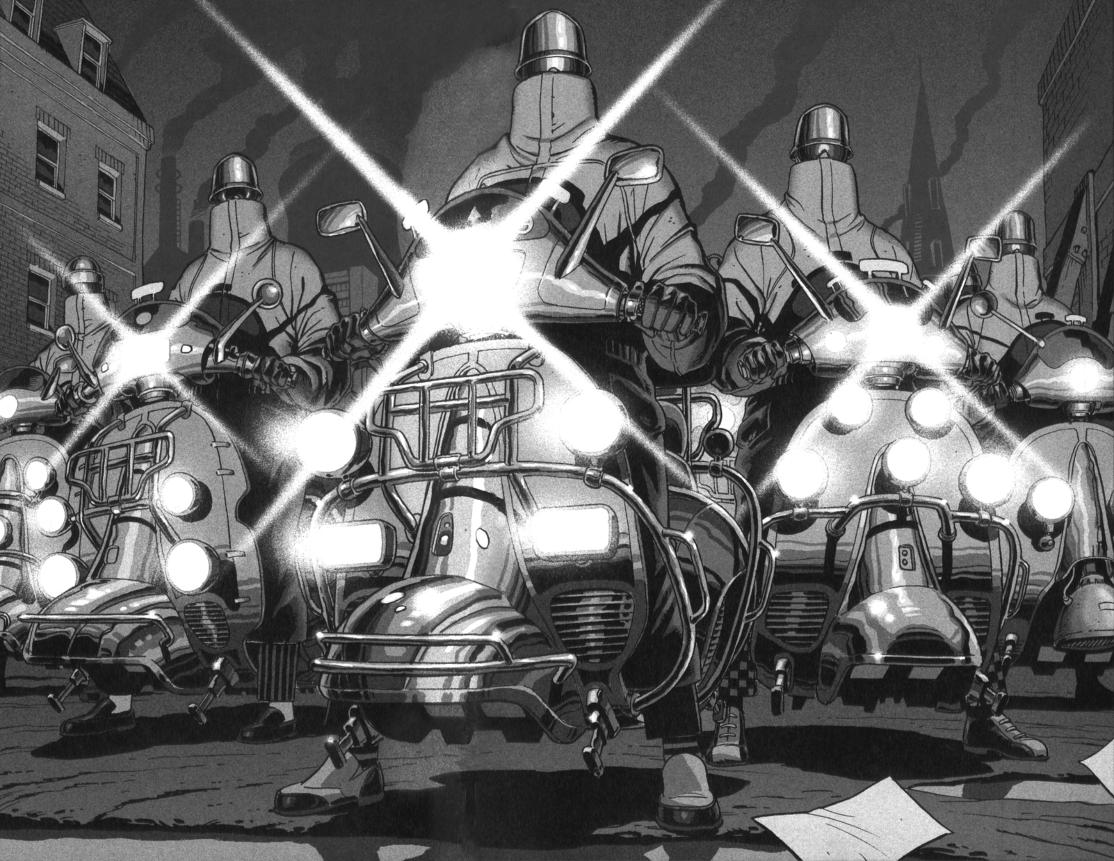
Stopping.







It was them.





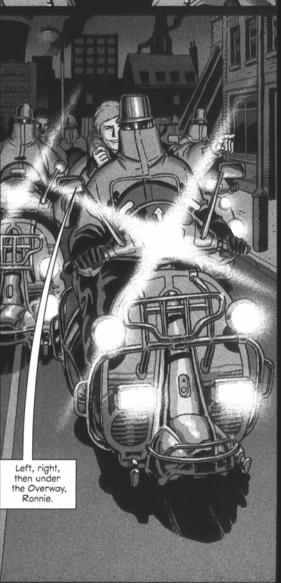
















I'd been wanting to spank the bastards ever since the night they gave me and Bok a good kicking.













Always was a nasty little shit.



Spark.





Used to think he was all right at school.

And Mitch.



Stupid fat Mitch.



He wasn't going to forget that night in a hurry.





Even if he did ever learn how to wash his face.



Me, I couldn't wait to wipe his pig stink off my hands.







Me and Bok were Originals.





We got to the Place about nine. We had to walk.

TONIGHT: CASS & THE CASANOVAS





And we had to shake Wanker Warren off first.







For the first time, I felt like I belonged somewhere.





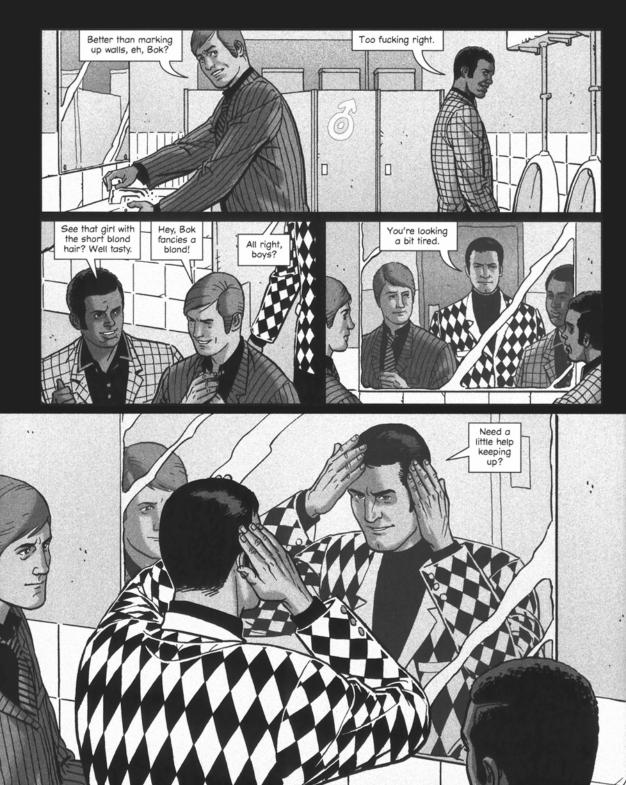






Like I'd gone to fucking heaven.



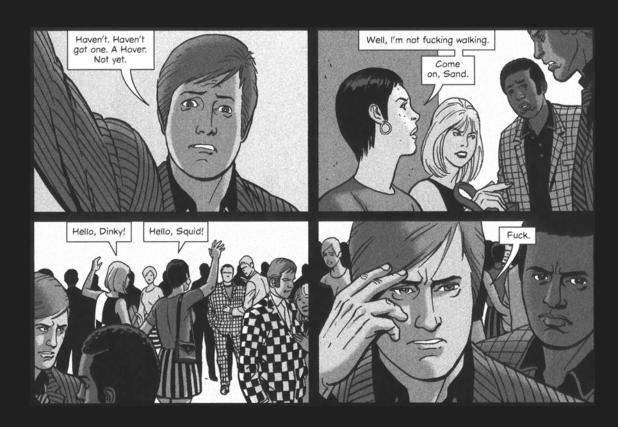






l'd had Degs before. And Emms.





And I'd never had a comedown like it, either. Fucking Zebs.









Home's always a comedown, too.



But it's somewhere to sleep.



Get something to eat.



And get ready to go out again.



I always felt better when I met up with the boys.



It felt good to show the world who we were.



Good to let people know their place.



And great to get a good look at the girls.





I should've been saving up for a Hover but, fuck it, some things I just had to have first.



Didn't want to start looking like a fucking Dirt.

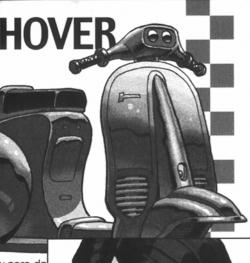


Still, I had to save money where I could.



Me and Bok always got a ride with one of the boys.

But I was fed up with being a passenger. I wanted to be at the front.







New impact resistant

Scientifically proven levels drive to

> FROM AL PTICIANS

I sportsme

Keep your clothes DAZZLING smart, genuine ex-military MANTI

DANCING FE

WATERPROOF & **DIRT RESISTANT**

Fully lined with elasticated cuffs and waist feature. Two deep outside pockets and inside zipped safety pocket. The fully padded neck protection feature adds safety for hover riders and their passengers.

Now available in standard plain model or exclusive striped "officer" versions.

Orders to: FASHIONS UNLTD. Wilson Trading Park

op-

Stylish and tough, these crash-hats are the perfect com-bination of fashion and safety.

CHROME-PLATED VERSION NOW AVAILABLE!

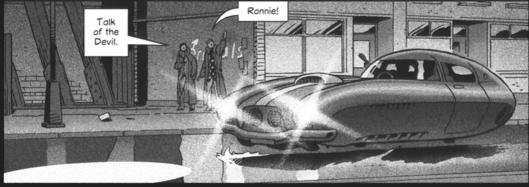
WHEN YOU SKID, YOU'LL BE GLAD OF



Guaranteed to dazzle! In a var modern styles for men and w Every





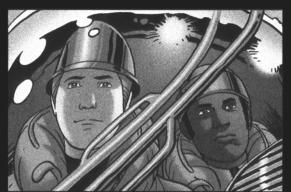




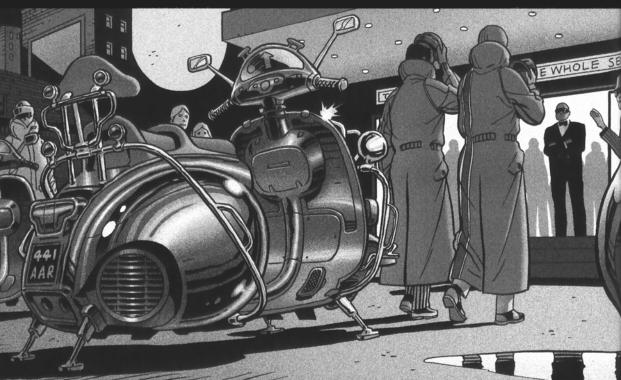




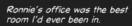
Me and Bok got to the Place about nine.



We rode in on my Hover.









I wanted one just like it.



But for now I had new Dazzlerags, a Hover and a pocketful of Folding. It was almost enough.



Almost.







Suddenly I couldn't see anything else.

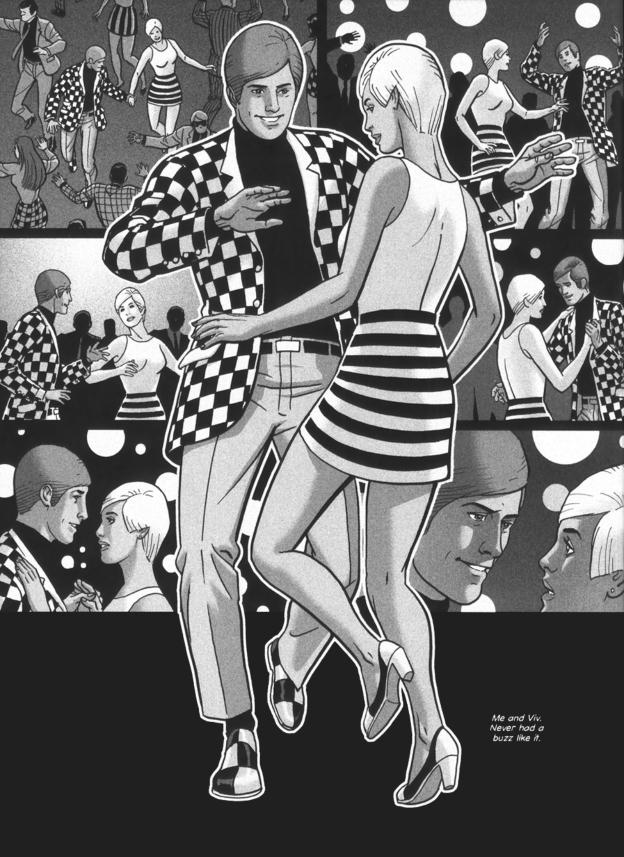




















At first I was just mad about my Hover.



By the time we got to Viv's road, I was wishing Bok wasn't there.





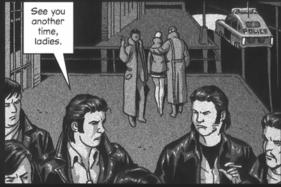






















I knew then that Viv was the one for me. I'd never let anything or anyone come between us.



Anyone.









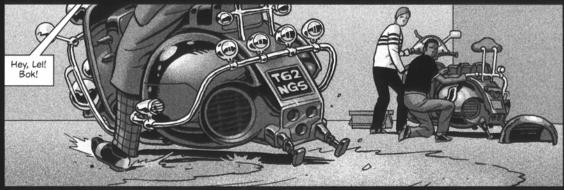




















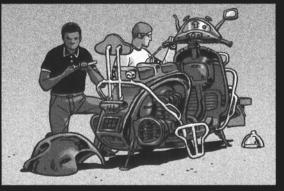








l never used to think anyone or anything could come between me and Bok.



Until then.

Me and Bok were a bit late getting to the Place the next weekend.



Bok's Hover didn't go as fast as mine.



Viv got there while I was in my office. I had a lot of Hello, All right, Shar? Dinky! customers to see to. Want a ride on my Hover? It's got Series Two aerodamping and Who's your friend, Dink? Fuck off, Warren. You trying to pull Viv is just the excuse Lel needs to sort you out. Warren's Yeah? I'd like to fucking see the name. him try. All right, Viv? No. Can we have a dance, Lel? Now you're That prat Warren bothering you? finally here. You're not pissed off because No, it's not that. I just don't like you selling those pills, Lel. I kept you waiting, are you?

BALL













She'd just got her coat. We sat on my Hover and talked.

We didn't stay angry long.





















Saying goodbye to Viv was always hard.

This voucher entitles the bearer to one free game of bingo. Valid for Break weekend only.

BARKER'S BINGO

FREE ICE-CREAM!

This voucher entitles the

bearer to cream cd

Break we

*Vanilla fl

QUALITY

This voucher entitles the

bearer to one free meat

and potato pie. Valid for

Break weekend only.

ENTE DOAT DINE

This voucher entitles the bearer to one free boat

the weather forecast is for overcast skies and occasional showers. Pollution will be averagely high with some particulates.

Traffic is expected to be heavy with jams expected at major intersections.

Track works will disrupt travel on several main rail lines. The worst-affected routes will be those using

Outer skin

THE DRINK WATER DOMES Upper windows Bracing struts (16)

Lower

windows

Filtration plants

Water

Public buildings

Vent

Roadway

VATER FUN OR ALL THE FAMILY!

WATER IS ALS

SOLEISURE ACTION SEE TIMERAGE'S SPECIAL EDITION:

When engineers devised a scheme to protect the Drinkwater Reservoir from local polluted rain and airborne debris, they realised that it would also provide a haven for holidaymakers looking to escape those same elements.

Within the huge, award-winning structure are restaurants, amusements, sports facilities and a modern nightclub.

All these attractions are insulated from our uncertain weather Temperatures are several

A SPECIAL REPORT

Police have warned that fighting between rival youth gangs will not be tolerated at this year's early Break.

Vanloads of specially equipped officers will attend the potential troublespots around the country. The Pier Tent on the east coast and the newly opened Drinkwater Dome are to be particularly targeted.

A police spokesman identified the two main gangs as the so-called "Originals," hoverscooter-riding clothes and music enthusiasts and "The Dirt." leather-clad

hoverbike rid

"They seem behaving li human being spokesman.

"They third different from but to the rest of society, they're just the same mindless thugs."

He continued, "We will not tolerate their drugtaking, their drinking, their violence or their bad language."

The courts have been instructed to make an example of any gang members brought before

I'VE BEEN TO

WENTER DOME

last war, the Drinkwater project provided not only construction work in this traditionally deprived region but is continuing to provide employment for many local people in the leisure industry.

In addition to the day-tripper sector of the market, there are several economical hotels and a well-equipped caravan park.



Viv had told her Dad she was staying with Sharon.



Bok had tuned and cleaned his old Hover and now it was almost as fast as mine.

Almost.



Squid was already so pilled he could probably have run as fast as his Hover.



Sharon had told her Dad she was staying with Viv.

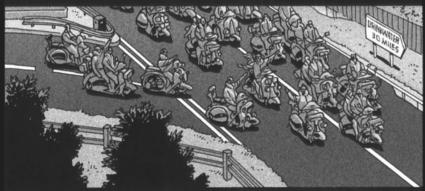




And Warren was tagging along. Fucker had bought a Mantle the same as mine but he still looked like a Wanker.



Took a couple of hours to get to the Water.

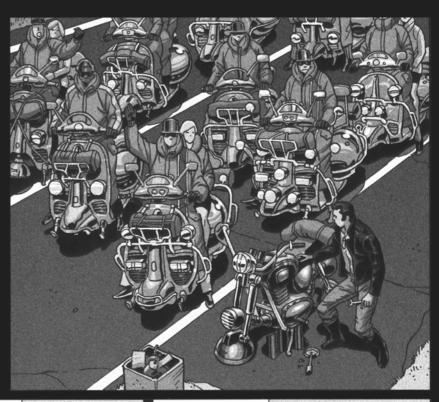


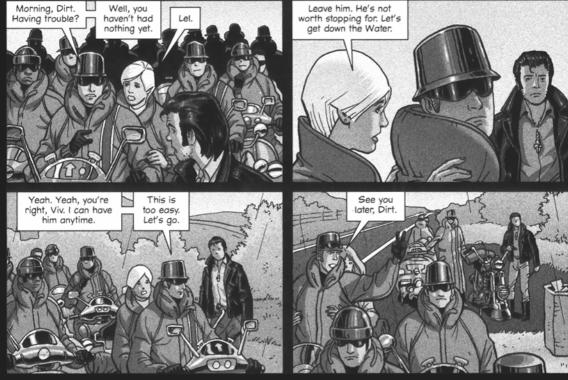
We were getting stronger and stronger every minute.



The Dirt would be heading for the Water, too. We couldn't wait to meet them.

And give them the kicking of their lives.

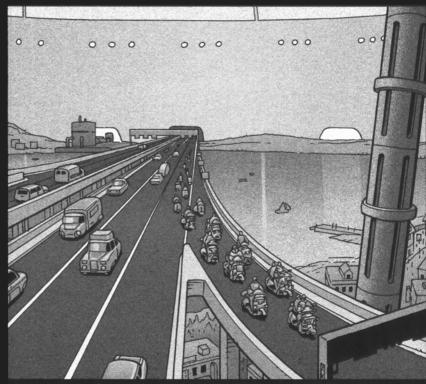






We saw the Drinkwater Dome a long time before we got there. And the cold, filthy rain that ran off it. We didn't care about the rain.

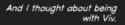
Not inside the Dome. But it was still fucking cold. Usual Break weather.



And the Dirt would be around somewhere, stinking the place up. Still, it was better than the City.



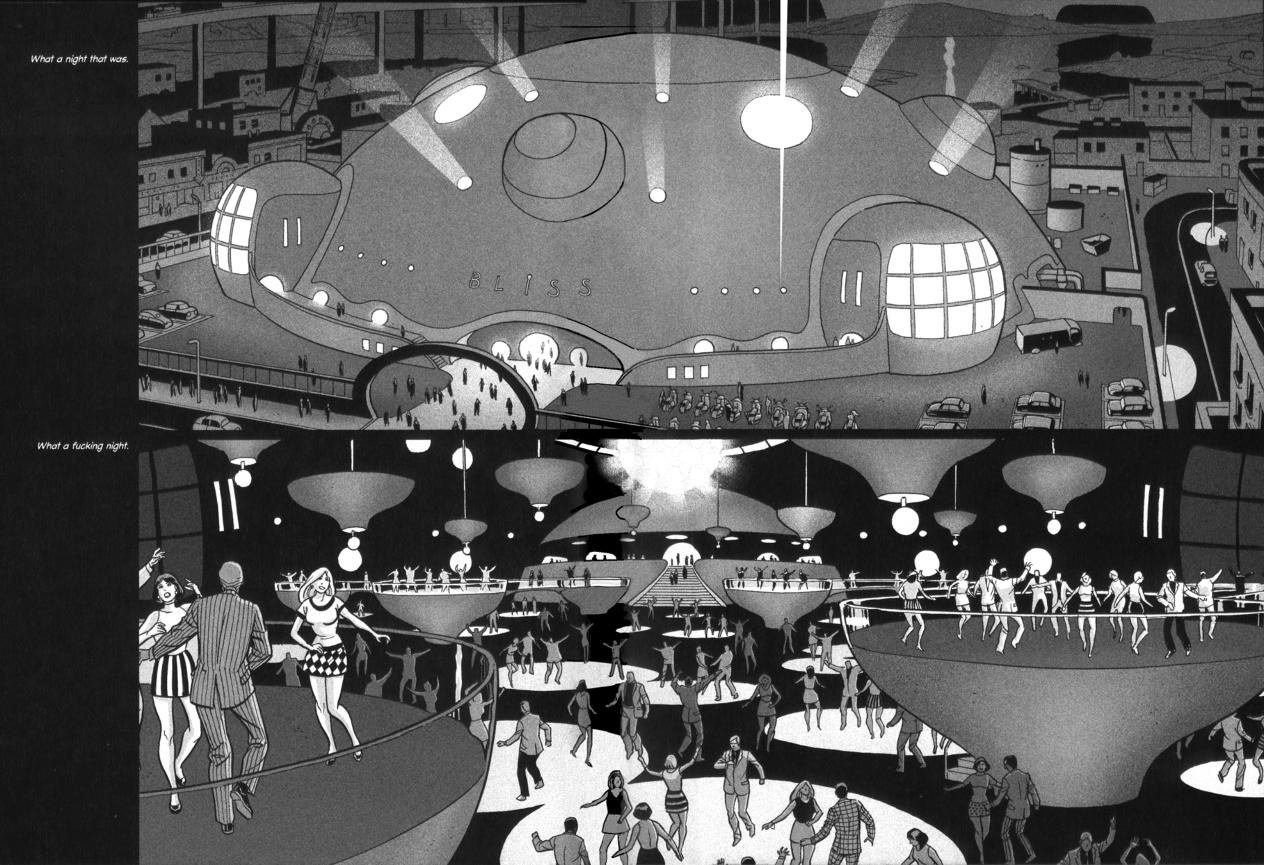
But not much better. Then I thought about the Zebs in my toolbox and the night ahead in Bliss.





This was going to be some weekend.





I had to do a bit of business for Ronnie first.



And my office at Bliss was the best yet.



Business was good. So good, I sold my own Zebs, too.







I didn't need any Zebs. Viv made me feel good enough by herself.



Besides, I didn't want to be Limp Lel later on.



We danced for hours. And the more we danced, the more I wanted her.

And the more I knew she wanted me.





What a night.

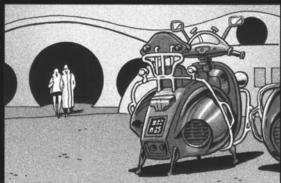


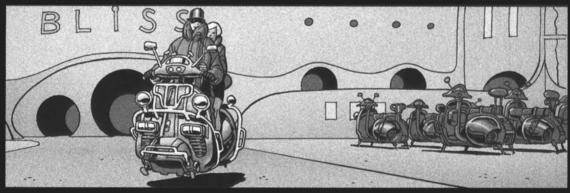
What a fucking night.

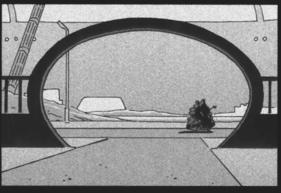




Even Bok got off with someone.





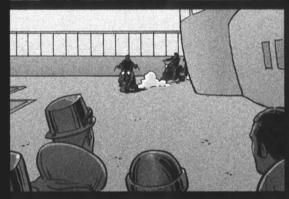


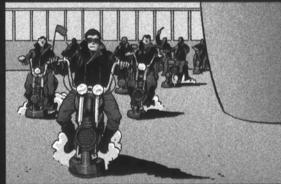


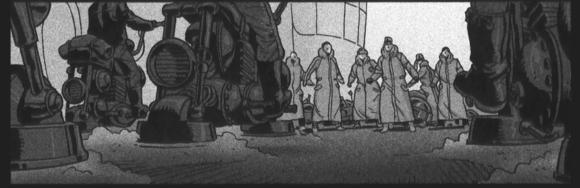






















Usually, I'd have felt really rough about then, coming down.



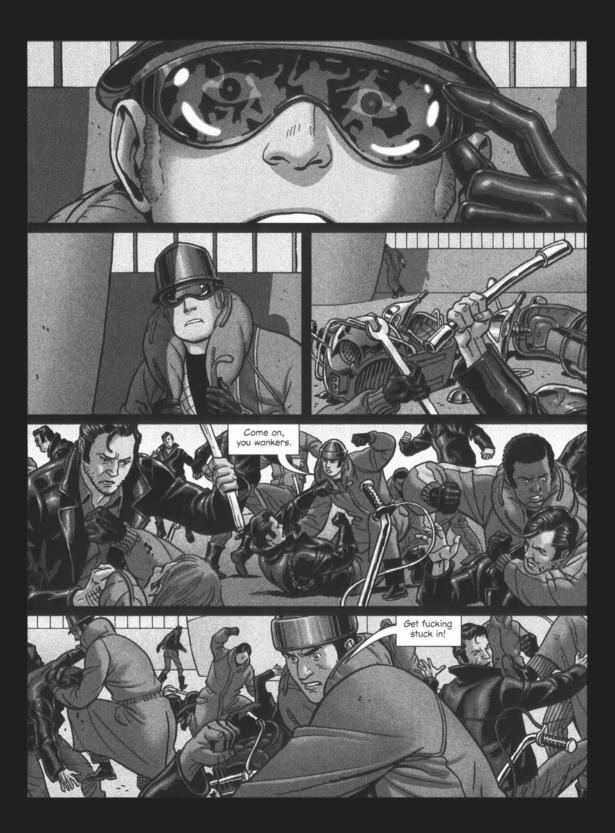
But that morning was different. I felt great.



So did Viv.



I knew there wasn't going to be any holding back.





l'd never felt anything like l felt for Viv then.



Everything else was a million miles away. I felt safe, happy.



But scared, too.



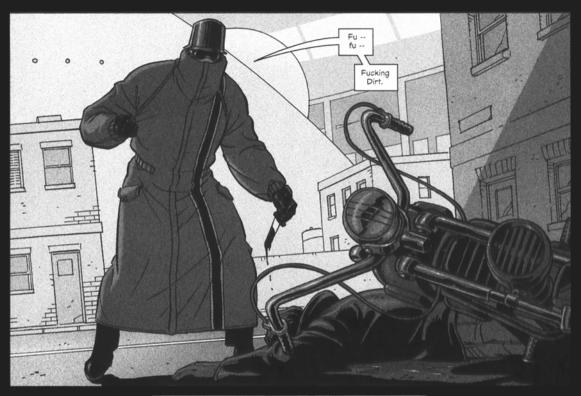








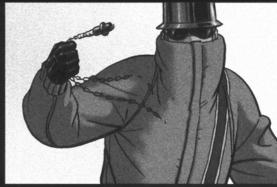
















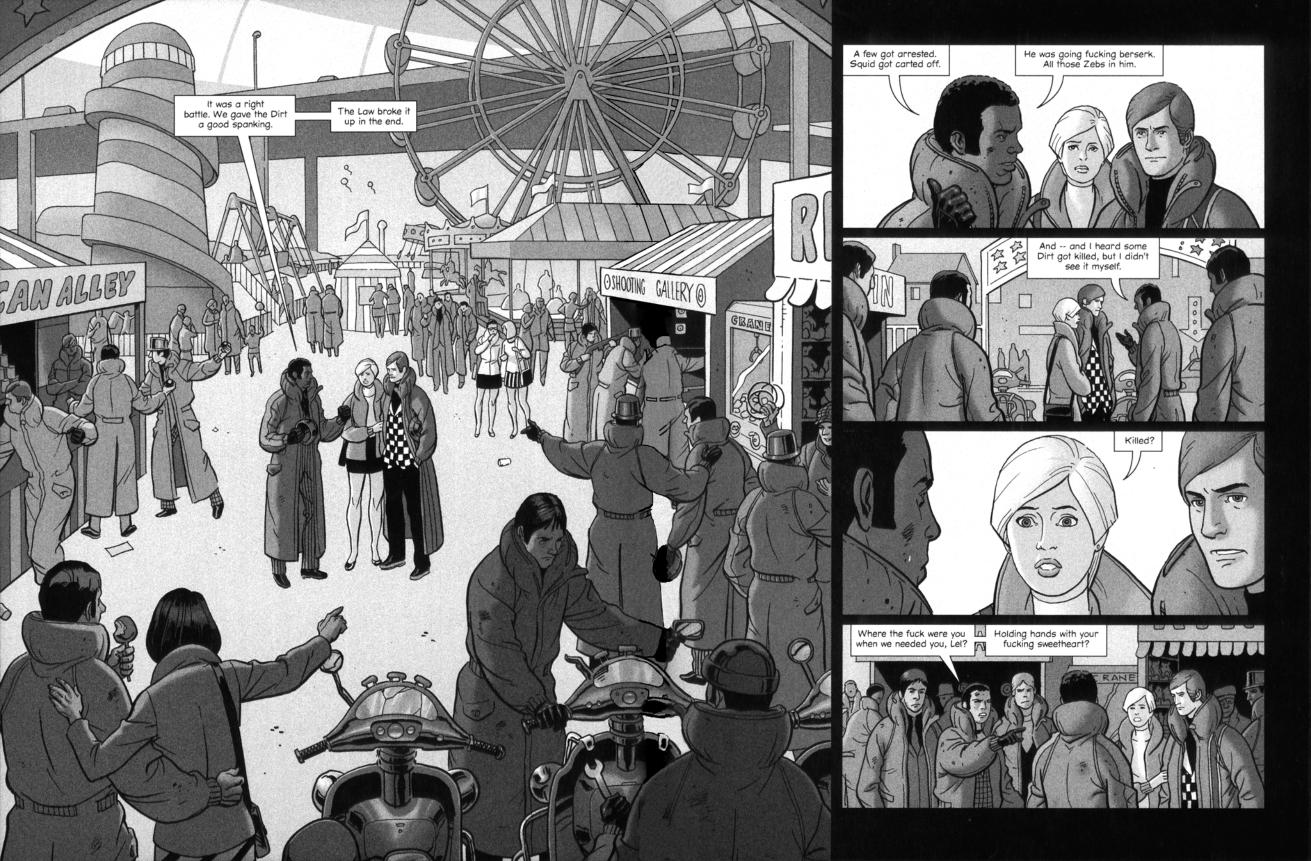








Police sirens woke me up.















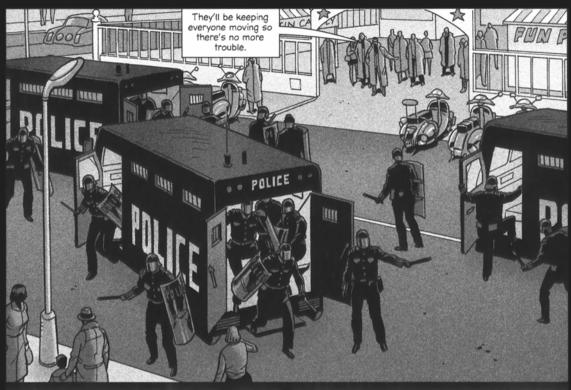














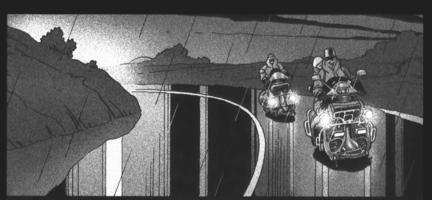


It was afternoon by the time we got on the road home from the Water.

Squid was coming down. So was his Hover.

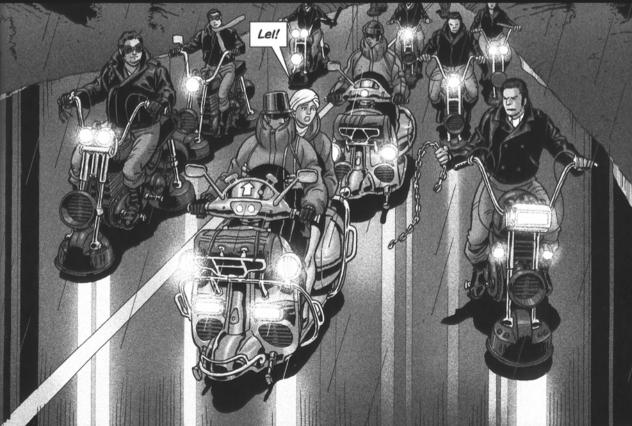


l'Il never forget what happened next.



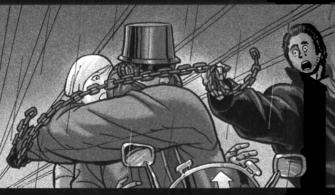




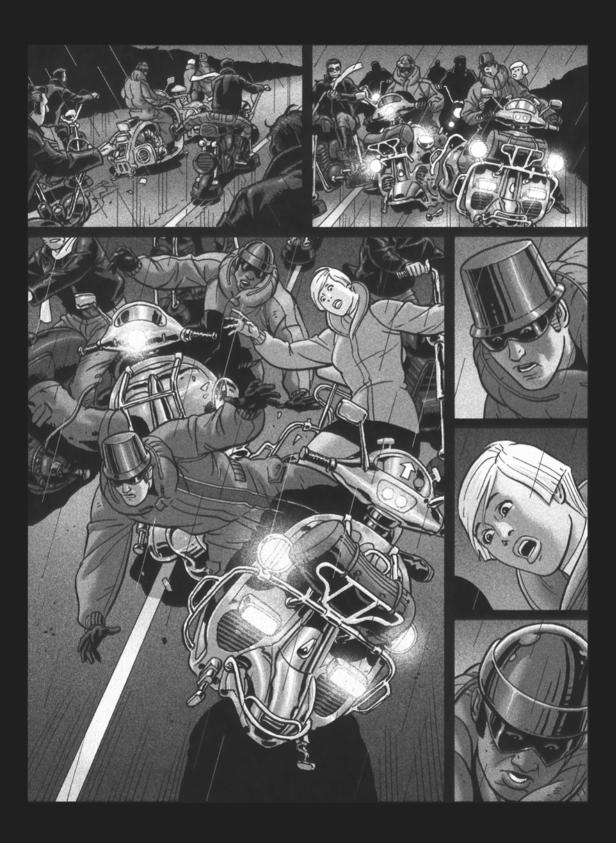












Some moments last forever.













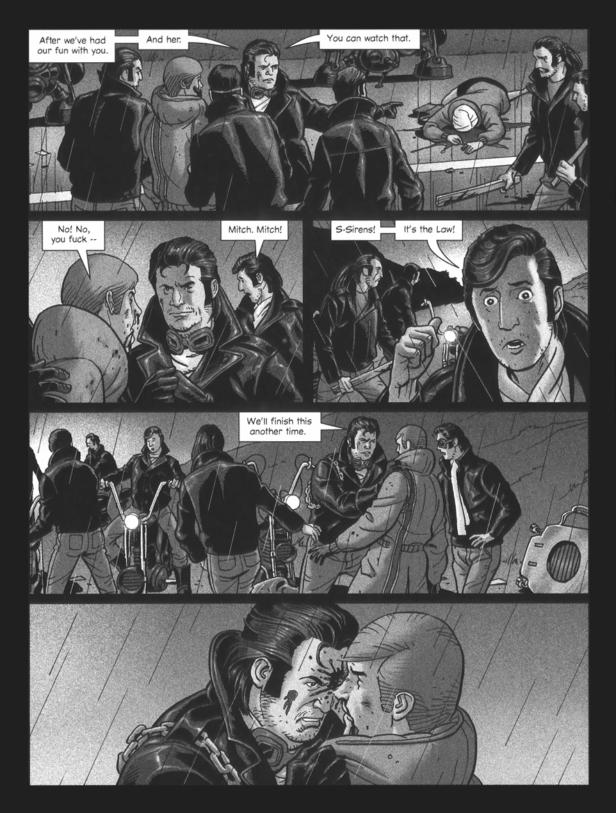


















Viv.











Language.







fle win be greatly missed. Far flowers only, by request.

BOKASSA, James Clement. Beloved only son of Mary and Stanley and brother to Millicent. Taken from us suddenly. Cremation at South Street

Crematorium on May 17th, 18
SPENCER, Pearl. Passed
long illne





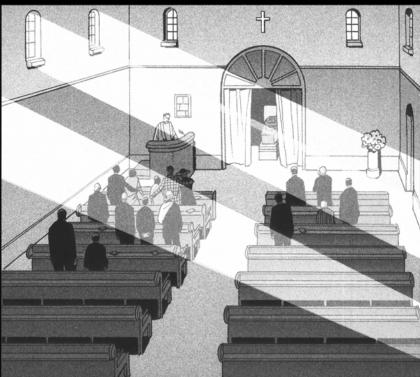








They played some music I'd never heard before and said some words about some Bok I didn't know.





Those first few times I saw Viv, she was still out of it.

l just sat there and thought. About Bok. About what had happened. About what I was going to do.



I was there when she woke up. I had to tell her about Bok.

> That was when I finally believed that it had really happened.



That Bok was really dead.



Me and Viv sat there crying for a long time.

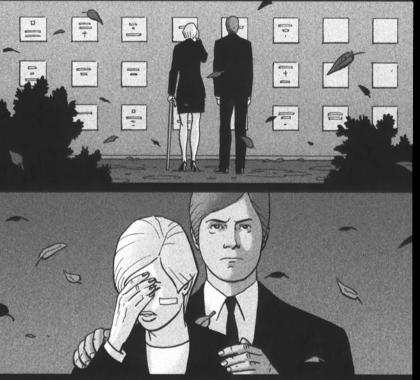


By the time my plaster came off, we were both past the worst of it.

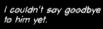


We'd done a lot of talking by then. Nothing much else to do in a hospital room.

It looked like we were both going to be all right. Scarred, but all right.



l went with Viv when she said goodbye to Bok.





I had to see a few people first. Finish things.

First, I went to see Ronnie.

To ask a favour. A big one.





After Ronnie I went to see Dinky and Squid.

I knew I wouldn't even have to ask them for help.



Then I went to see Warren.

To apologize.

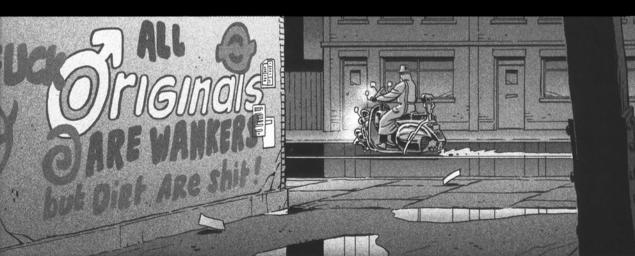






Then I went to see Mitch.

To say goodbye.









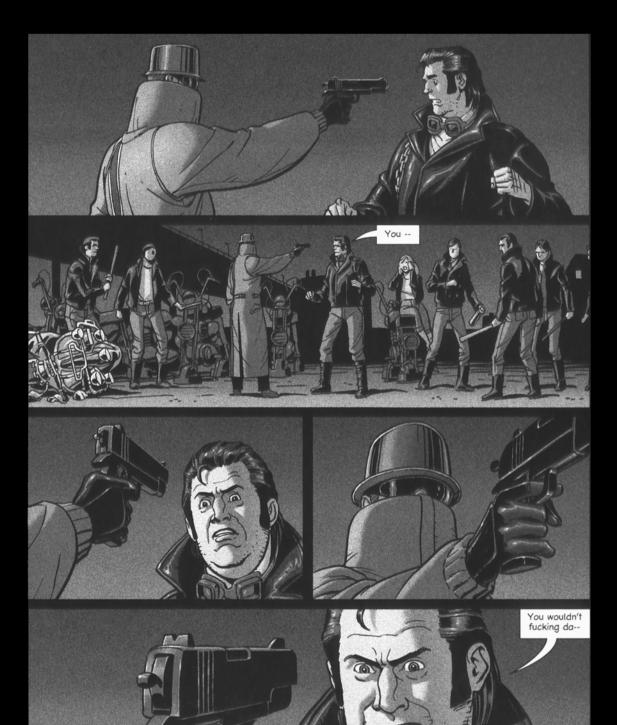


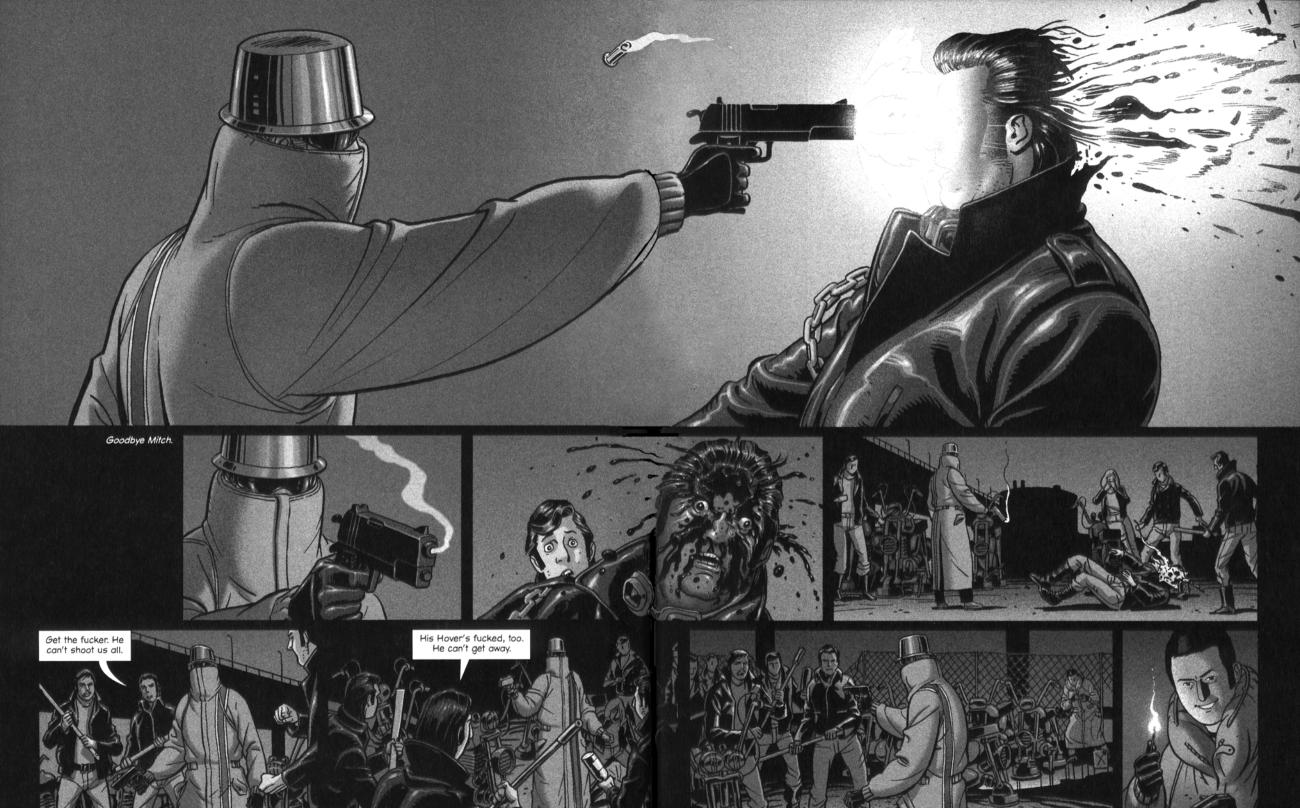
Trapped. I might have fucking known it, Warren.





Oh yeah?















We were right here.

Me and Bok.



Originals. All we ever wanted to be.



Me and Bok.

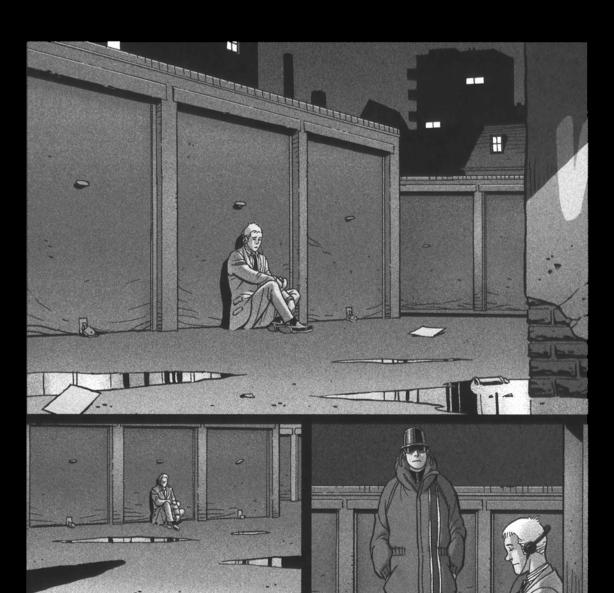








Goodbye Bok.

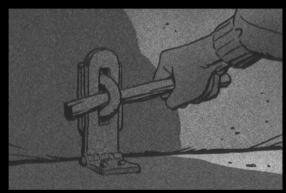






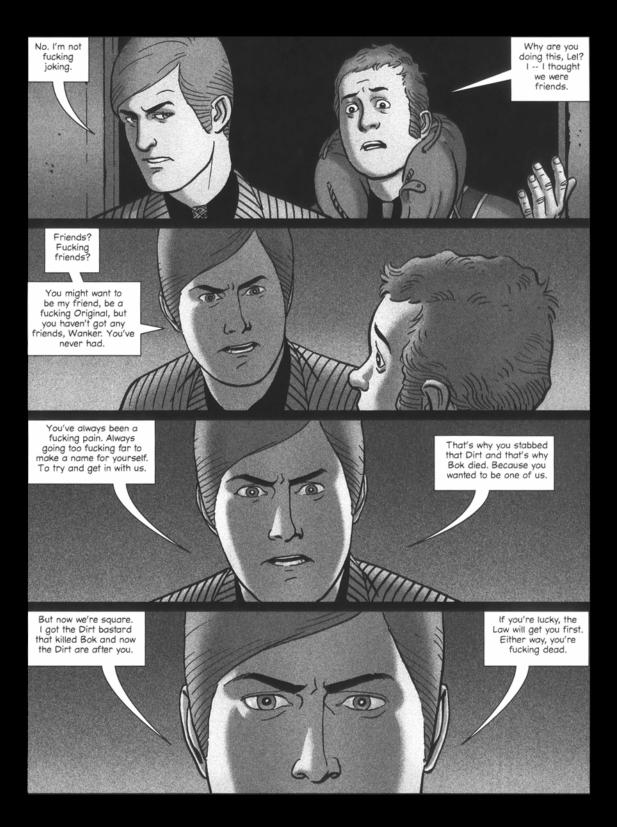










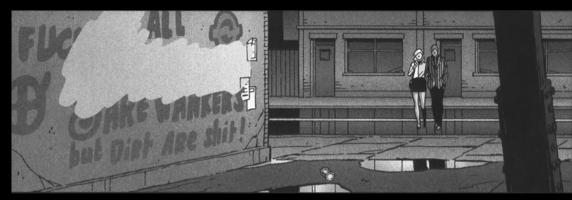








Goodbye Warren.













Me and Ronnie. Or me and Viv. I've got to say goodbye to one of them. Right here. Right now.

Me and Bok. Things were simple back then.



Yeah. And it's my birthday next week. I'll be eighteen.

Fucking eighteen.



